

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 02461 061527Z
ACTION SS-25

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C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 2461

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJECT: SOUTH LEBANON -- COL PRESENCE

1. NO DOUBT GOL HAS MANY OTHER PRESSING PROBLEMS WITH WHICH TO COPE, BUT ONE ITEM WHICH SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN LOST SIGHT OF IS SIILASVUO'S IDEA FOR A POLITICAL PRESENCE IN THE SOUTH. FROM WHAT WE UNDERSTAND, THERE IS NO EFFECTIVE GOL POLITICAL PRESENCE IN THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS AND IN THE VACUUM CIVILIAN UNARMED PLO ACTIVISTS ARE SEEKING TO POLITICIZE THE POPULATION AND TAKE OVER THE ADMINISTRATION OF TOWNS. LT. COL. LEVERETTE OF UNIFIL HAS OBSERVED THIS HAPPENING IN AT LEAST THE FOLLOWING SIX TOWNS:

- (A) SRISA, AMR 1873 2983
- (B) QANA, AMR 1782 2902
- (C) JWAIYA, AMR 1817 2933
- (D) AYTIT, AMR 1788 2926
- (E) SHAQRA, AMR 1930 2885
- (F) BRSHIF, AMR 1920 2865

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PAGE 02 JERUSA 02461 061527Z

2. LEVERETTE BELIEVES THE LOCAL POPULATION IN UNIFIL'S AREA OF OPERATION WOULD BE MOST RECEPTIVE TO A GOL POLITICAL PRESENCE. GIVEN THE TERMS OF SC RESOLUTIONS 425 AND 426, THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE AN AREA IN WHICH THE UN COULD ALSO LEND A DISCREET HAND.

3. CONCERNING THE LAF MOVE TO TIBNIN, LEVERETTE RECENTLY

CAME UP WITH A NEW IDEA WHICH IS WORTH CONSIDERING.
RATHER THAN THINK IN TERMS OF A BATTALION OR A COMPANY
AT ONE SITE, SUCH AS TIBNIN, HE SUGGESTED THAT GOL ASSIGN
SMALL UNITS OF 15-20 MEN TO EACH OF THE EIGHT UN
NATIONAL CONTINGENTS. THIS WOULD SPREAD THE
GOL MILITARY PRESENCE THROUGHOUT THE AREA UNDER THE
UN'S CONTROL AND COULD WORK OVER TIME TO BUILD
GOL CONFIDENCE FOR ADDITIONAL DEPLOYMENTS. MOREOVER,
SMALLER GROUPS ATTACHED TO UN CONTINGENTS WOULD PRESUMABLY BE
LESS LIKELY TO BE FIRED UPON BY HADDAD, SHIDIAK AND
COMPANY.
NEWLIN

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